

Appn. No. 09/846,316
Amdt. dated November 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A method for providing data analysis tools in a distributed environment, comprising the steps of:
 - (i)receiving a service request from a client, the service request including input data;
 - (ii)creating a job including the input data and a job identifier;
 - (iii)dispatching the job to an agent for delivery to a service provider hosting a requested analysis tool for processing the input data;
 - (iv)receiving a result from the service provider, the result including output data representing the input data processed in accordance with the requested analysis tool; and
 - (v)transmitting the output data to the client.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of receiving and transmitting are accomplished over the Internet.
- 3.(Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of dispatching the job includes formatting the input data into packets for transmission.
- 4.(Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of formatting includes marking up the input data with extensible markup language (XML).
5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of creating the job includes storing job information in a database.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of dispatching includes balancing loads between application servers.
7. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of receiving the result includes integrating received packets containing the results to recover the output data.

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8. (Original) A system for providing data analysis tools in a distributed environment, comprising:
a web server for receiving a service request, including input data, from a client;
a manager for creating a job including the input data and a job identifier;
a dispatcher for dispatching the job to an agent for delivery to a service provider hosting a requested analysis tool for processing the input data; and
an integrator for receiving a result from the service provider, the result including output data representing the input data processed in accordance with the requested analysis tool.
9. (Original) A system according to claim 8, further including at least one web server for connecting to the client over the Internet.
10. (Original) A system according to claim 8, wherein the manager includes a database for storing the job information.
11. (Original) A system according to claim 8, wherein the dispatcher includes load balancing means for balancing loads between service providers.
- 12.(Original) A system according to claim 8, wherein the manager includes markup means.
- 13.(Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the markup means includes extensible mark up language (XML).
14. (Original) A system according to claim 13, wherein the integrator includes means to reassemble the job to retrieve the output data.
15. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data analysis tool includes proprietary data analysis application programs.
16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data analysis tool includes processing equipment.

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17. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data analysis tool includes proprietary data analysis application programs.
18. (New) The system according to claim 17, wherein the data analysis tool includes processing equipment.